

Congressman Wally Herger (R-CA), Ranking Member of the Ways & Means Subcommittee on Health, issued the following statement in response to House Democrat's introduction of their plan for government-run health care:

"Today's proposal by the House Democrat Leadership continues the recent trend of tax-and-spend policies that expand government intervention in the private sector. I'm deeply troubled by this attempt at a government takeover of health care. I believe the Democrats' plan will undermine competition and harm the quality of health care without offering real reforms to make health care more affordable for all Americans. I will oppose any plan that puts bureaucrats in charge of medical decisions that should be made by patients and their doctors.

"The House Democrats' plan will cost taxpayers more than \$1 trillion and in order to finance this government takeover, Speaker Pelosi and the Democratic Leadership plan to raise taxes. The impact of the tax increases in the Democratic bill will fall most heavily on small businesses and the millions of Americans that they employ. With national unemployment approaching double digits, it's no time to raise taxes on the small businesses that create the majority of the new jobs in this country. We need reform but bigger government is not the solution. We can bring down costs by limiting frivolous lawsuits, by improving transparency within the system, and increasing competition. House Republicans have offered such a solution and I will continue to work for reforms that will provide the American people with access to affordable, quality care."